

- (2) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or the Secretary's designee;
- (3) the Secretary of Disabilities, or the Secretary's designee; and
- (4) the following members, appointed by the Governor:
 - (i) two representatives of the Maryland Veterans Commission;
 - (ii) one representative of the Department of Business and Economic

Development;

Program;

- (iii) one representative of the Minority Business Enterprise
 - (iv) one representative of the American Legion; and
 - (v) one representative of the Disabled American Veterans; and
 - (~~iv~~) (vi) four representatives of the general public.
- (c) The Governor shall appoint the chair of the Task Force.
 - (d) The Board of Public Works shall provide staff for the Task Force.
 - (e) A member of the Task Force:
 - (1) may not receive compensation for serving on the Task Force; but
 - (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(f) The Task Force shall:

- (1) identify the number of disabled State veterans who would benefit from State-awarded contracts for newly established small businesses;
- (2) identify existing programs, services, laws, and regulations that best address the issue of assisting disabled veterans establishing small businesses; and
- (3) make recommendations regarding the designation of either the Department of Business and Economic Development or the Department of Veteran Affairs as the State agency to implement an initiative to assist disabled veterans establishing small businesses.

(g) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly, on or before December 1, 2005.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Veterans Affairs shall publicize on the State and local level that a disabled veteran may qualify for:

(a) the Small Business Preference Program if the disabled veteran's business satisfies the requirements under Title 14, Subtitle 2 of the State Finance and Procurement Article;